

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 65th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION

Call to Order: Chair Gordon Vance, on March 7, 2017 at 3:00 PM, in Room 405 Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Gordon Vance, Chair (R)
Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick, Vice Chair (R)
Sen. Carlie Boland (D)
Sen. Dee Brown (R)
Sen. Edward Buttrey (R)
Sen. Terry Gauthier (R)
Sen. Jen Gross (D)
Sen. JP Pomnichowski (D)
Sen. Roger Webb (R)
Sen. Lea Whitford (D)

Members Excused: None

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Laura Sankey Keip, Legislative Branch
Tia Stockton, Committee Secretary

Audio Committees: These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted: HB 144, 2/27/2017; HB 152, 2/27/2017; HB 213, 2/27/2017; HB 355, 2/27/2017

Executive Action: SB 196 - Do pass as amended
HB 267 - Be concurred in
SB 238 - Be tabled

00:00:02 Chair Vance

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 267

00:01:27 **Motion:** Sen. Fitzpatrick moved that **HB 267 BE CONCURRED IN.**

Discussion:

00:01:47 Sen. Brown

00:02:04 Sen. Gross entered the meeting.

00:02:29 Chair Vance

00:02:34 Sen. Whitford

00:02:55 Chair Vance

00:03:05 Sen. Pomnichowski

00:04:14 Sen. Webb

00:04:54 **Vote:** Motion carried 7-3 by roll call vote with Sen. D. Brown, Sen. Vance and Sen. R. Webb voting no. Sen. Buttrey voted by proxy. Sen. Gross will carry the bill.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 196

00:05:46 **Motion:** Sen. Fitzpatrick moved that **SB 196 DO PASS.**

00:06:06 **Motion:** Sen. Fitzpatrick moved that **SB 196 BE AMENDED.**
[EXHIBIT\(his47a01\)](#)

Discussion:

00:06:39 Sen. Brown

00:07:00 Sen. Fitzpatrick

00:07:12 Sen. Brown

00:07:36 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Sen. Buttrey voted by proxy.

00:07:53 **Motion:** Sen. Fitzpatrick moved that **SB 196 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

Discussion:

00:07:59 Sen. Brown

00:08:09 Sen. Fitzpatrick

00:08:35 Chair Vance

00:08:39 Sen. Fitzpatrick

00:08:48 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Sen. Buttrey voted by proxy.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 232

00:09:05 **Motion:** Sen. Fitzpatrick moved that **SB 232 DO PASS**.

Discussion:

00:09:11 Chair Vance

00:09:59 Sen. Brown

00:10:29 Sen. Gauthier

00:10:56 Chair Vance

00:10:59 Without objection, Sen. Fitzpatrick withdrew the DO PASS motion.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 238

00:11:05 **Motion:** Sen. Fitzpatrick moved that **SB 238 DO PASS**.

Discussion:

00:11:22 Chair Vance

00:11:40 Sen. Brown

00:11:54 Chair Vance

00:12:14 Sen. Gross

00:12:23 Sen. Whitford

00:12:39 Sen. Gross

00:13:13 Chair Vance

00:13:22 **Vote:** Motion failed 4-6 by roll call vote with Sen. Boland, Sen. Gross, Sen. Pomnichowski and Sen. Whitford voting aye. Sen. Buttrey voted by proxy.

00:13:59 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Fitzpatrick moved that **SB 238 BE TABLED**. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Sen. Buttrey voted by proxy.

00:14:21 Recess

00:26:58 Sen. Buttrey entered the meeting.

00:48:01 Reconvene

HEARING ON HB 355

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:48:22 Rep. Ray Shaw (R), HD 71, opened the hearing on HB 355, Revise laws related to school district transportation.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:53:00 Fred Hofman, superintendent, Harrison Public School (HPS)

EXHIBIT(his47a02)

00:59:11 Bob Vogel, Montana School Board Association (MTSBA)
 01:03:07 Dennis Parman, Montana Rural Education Association (MREA)
 01:05:28 Pat Audet, School Administrators of Montana

Opponents' Testimony:

01:06:39 Bob Gilbert, Montana School Bus Contractors Association (MSBCA)
 01:11:39 Mike Krout, president, Montana Association of Pupil Transportation
 01:19:52 Jacob Iverson, Harlow's Bus Sales and School Bus Services (Harlow's)

Informational Testimony:

01:26:03 Kara Sperle, Office of Public Instruction

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:26:22 Sen. Pomnichowski
 01:27:41 Mr. Parman, MREA
 01:29:14 Sen. Pomnichowski
 01:29:48 Mr. Hofman, HPS
 01:32:05 Sen. Pomnichowski
 01:33:06 Mr. Hofman
 01:34:19 Sen. Pomnichowski
 01:34:45 Mr. Hofman
 01:35:16 Sen. Brown
 01:35:53 Mr. Gilbert, MSBCA
 01:36:05 Sen. Brown
 01:36:45 Mr. Vogel, MTSBA
 01:38:41 Sen. Buttrey
 01:39:00 Mr. Vogel
 01:39:20 Sen. Buttrey
 01:39:32 Mr. Vogel
 01:39:36 Sen. Buttrey
 01:40:11 Mr. Vogel
 01:41:09 Sen. Buttrey
 01:41:33 Mr. Vogel
 01:42:15 Sen. Webb
 01:42:49 Mr. Hofman
 01:44:00 Sen. Webb
 01:44:16 Mr. Hofman
 01:44:25 Sen. Webb
 01:44:36 Mr. Hofman
 01:44:58 Sen. Webb
 01:45:14 Mr. Iverson, Harlow's
 01:45:22 Sen. Webb

Closing by Sponsor:

01:46:03 Rep. Shaw

01:47:24 Chair Vance
01:47:31 Sen. Buttrey

HEARING ON HB 152

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

01:47:55 Rep. Tom Welch (R), HD 72, opened the hearing on HB 152, Authorize counties to establish junk vehicle capital improvement funds.

Proponents' Testimony:

01:52:01 Mike McGinley, commissioner, Beaverhead County
[EXHIBIT\(his47a03\)](#)
[EXHIBIT\(his47a04\)](#)

01:55:37 Harold Blattie, Montana Association of Counties

Opponents' Testimony:

01:59:45 Bruce Meyer, representing himself

Informational Testimony:

02:04:28 Rick Thompson, Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

02:04:47 Sen. Brown
02:05:08 Mr. Thompson, DEQ
02:05:29 Sen. Brown
02:05:47 Mr. Thompson
02:06:04 Sen. Brown
02:06:23 Mr. Thompson
02:06:53 Sen. Brown
02:07:07 Mr. Thompson
02:07:25 Sen. Brown
02:07:30 Chair Vance
02:07:33 Mr. Thompson

Closing by Sponsor:

02:07:46 Rep. Welch
02:09:11 Chair Vance

HEARING ON HB 213

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

02:09:30 Rep. Jeff Essmann (R), HD 54, opened the hearing on HB 213, Revise motor vehicle license plate laws.

[EXHIBIT\(his47a05\)](#)

Proponents' Testimony: None

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

02:12:29 Sen. Brown

02:12:50 Rep. Essmann

Closing by Sponsor:

02:13:16 Rep. Essmann

02:14:01 Chair Vance

HEARING ON HB 144

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

02:14:53 Rep. Zach Brown (D), HD 63, opened the hearing on HB 144, Generally revise motor vehicle laws.

[EXHIBIT\(his47a06\)](#)

Proponents' Testimony:

02:17:26 Sarah Garcia, Motor Vehicle Division, Department of Justice (DOJ)

02:23:52 Sen. Gross left the meeting.

02:24:22 Owen Kelley, executive director, Montana Independent Auto Dealers Association

02:25:31 Ronda Wiggers, Montana County Treasurers Association

02:26:57 Matt Jones, executive director, Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway

Opponents' Testimony:

02:28:16 Greg VanHorssen, State Farm Insurance (SF)

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

02:30:04 Sen. Brown
02:30:23 Mr. VanHorssen, SF
02:31:00 Sen. Brown
02:31:31 Ms. Garcia, DOJ
02:36:53 Sen. Brown
02:37:06 Ms. Garcia
02:38:32 Sen. Whitford
02:39:29 Ms. Garcia
02:39:41 Michele Snowberger, Motor Vehicle Division, Department of Justice (DOJ)
02:41:35 Sen. Whitford
02:41:43 Ms. Snowberger, DOJ
02:42:47 Sen. Whitford
02:42:54 Ms. Snowberger
02:43:02 Sen. Brown
02:43:12 Ms. Snowberger

Closing by Sponsor:

02:43:30 Rep. Brown
02:43:50 Chair Vance

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 5:13 PM

Tia Stockton, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([his47aad.pdf](#))